

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the subject application as amended herein. In this Amendment, claims 1, 13, 18, 25 and 28 have been amended. Claims 10-12, 22-24 and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the teleconference held on September 16, 2003, in which the Examiner indicated that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 12 and intervening claims 10 and 11. Similar limitations have been also added to independent claims 13, 25 and 28. In view of these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 13, 25 and 28, and their corresponding dependent claims, are now in condition for allowance, and requests allowance of said claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.